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Introducing Cielo, Meyye, and Mercury Mayor Reed Announces Winning Names for City Hall Falcons

SAN JOSE – Fans no longer have to refer to City Hall’s young peregrine falcons by their ID numbers. San José Mayor Chuck Reed today announced the names of the three City Hall fledglings: Cielo (female 52Z), Meyye (female 04R), and Mercury (male 93P). Cielo is Spanish for “sky,” while Meyye is the Miwok word for “bird.” Mercury was named for the Greek winged messenger god and San Jose’s historic mercury mines.

“We received more than 130 wonderful entries. Our staff, our volunteer judges, and the voters from the falcon fan list-serve were delighted to see how many children had spent time learning about peregrine falcons and expressing themselves creatively,” said Mayor Reed. “In addition to selecting names for the falcons, this contest was designed to encourage young people to take interest in nature and science, and to express their interest artistically.”

Entries were received from children ages 5 to 17 from throughout San Jose. Each child submitted a short essay or piece of art to go along with their entry. Cielo was nominated by Aidan, a kindergartener at Hacienda Environmental Science Magnet School. Justin, a fifth grade student at Village School, nominated Meyye. Mercury was nominated by Cameron, a third grader at Parkview School.

After being reviewed by volunteer judges from Arts Council Silicon Valley and Adobe, fifteen finalists were presented to the 1,800 members of San Jose Peregrine Falcon Discussion Group, an online forum dedicated to the City Hall Falcons who voted for the winners.

Birders and falcon fans will gather online and on the ground in the coming days for the next milestone – fledging. The UC Santa Cruz researchers and trained volunteers will be monitoring this process to help ensure successful flight.

Young Mercury took flight on Wednesday afternoon while falcon fans were still voting on names for the fledglings. He successfully flew to a ledge on City Hall, then a tree on the North side of San Jose State University, before he missed in his attempt to return to the top of City Hall. Volunteers rescued him from Sixth Street. After biologist Glenn R. Stewart from UC Santa Cruz’s Predatory Bird Research Group examined Mercury, the fledgling spent the night in a secure location and was returned to a safe spot on top of City Hall on Thursday morning. He has been flying around City Hall and Downtown since.

For more information on the City Hall falcons or to view the FalconCam, visit www.sanjoseca.gov/falcons/about.asp or www.scpbrg.org.